



Bloomington/Monroe County Metropolitan Planning Organization
Technical Advisory Committee

Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
August 22, 2008 McCloskey Conference Room 135, City Hall

Technical Advisory Committee minutes are transcribed in a summarized outline manner. Audio recordings are on file with the City of Bloomington Planning Department.

Attendance

Technical Advisory Committee: John Collisson (Monroe Co. Highway), Tom Micuda (Bloomington Planning), Christina Fulton (Bloomington Public Works), Joyce Williams (Bloomington Engineering), Emmanuel Nsonwu (INDOT), Lew May (Bloomington Transit), Perry Maull (IU Bus Service), Jim Ude (INDOT), Gregg Zody (Monroe Co. Planning), and Jane Fleig (Bloomington Utilities).

Others: Josh Desmond (MPO Staff), Raymond Hess (MPO Staff), Joe Fish (MPO Staff) and Scott Robinson (MPO Staff).

I. Call to Order

Jane Fleig called the meeting to order

II. Approval of Minutes:

A. May 23, 2008 – Tom Micuda moved approval of the minutes after a correction from Jane Fleig. Jim Ude seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

III. Communications from the Chair

There were no communications from the chair.

IV. Reports from Officers and/or Committees

A. Updates on MPO related projects - John Collisson reported that the 1st St. bridge project is on schedule. Monroe County hopes to bid the project at Smith and Rogers in December. They are working on right-of-way for Vernal Pike, Phase II.

V. Reports from the MPO Staff

A. SAFETEA-LU Obligation Report - Josh Desmond reminded the committee that SAFETEA-LU will expire in late 2009. Federal funds, especially STP funds, need to be obligated or spent before this time. Mr. Desmond offered staff assistance. If a local public agency (LPA) feels a project will not start within this timeframe, the MPO will need to see if there are other projects that can use the funding. Staff has been notified that some funds will be rescinded from our UPWP.

B. 4th Quarter Progress Report - Raymond Hess explained that the 4th Quarter Report is presented for the committee's information.

C. Annual Completion Report – Mr. Hess explained the MPO spent about 73% of planning funds in FY 2008. The unspent funds are expected to roll back to the MPO in the 2010 fiscal year.

D. SR 45 from Pete Ellis to Russell Road Public Hearing Request - Mr. Hess stated a public hearing for INDOT's SR 45 project will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 16th at 6:00 pm in the

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University Elementary School Cafeteria. Joyce Williams noted that some people had been notified that the meeting is actually on Thursday, Sept. 18. Mr. Hess said he will check with INDOT for clarification.

E. Complete Streets Update - Mr. Hess said that the Citizens Advisory Committee has been working on a draft Complete Streets policy. The implication is that projects that are programmed into the TIP would have to be Complete Streets compliant. Copies of the policy are available from staff or online in the CAC packets on the MPO webpage. It is anticipated that the TAC will see the policy in October.

VI. Old Business

There was no old business.

VII. New Business

A. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) FY 2009-2012 Amendment - Mr. Hess said INDOT requested a TIP amendment to include engineering for an intersection improvement at SR 45 and Liberty Dr. The project will include an additional turning lane. Tom Micuda moved to recommend approval of the TIP amendment. Gregg Zody seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

B. JARC/New Freedom Grant Requests - Mr. Hess said Bloomington Transit was successful in getting JARC and New Freedom funds last year to extend transit service so as to better serve low income populations and persons with disabilities. Lew May said the JARC grant helped expand transit service for downtown-oriented routes to 11:30 pm. The New Freedom funding allowed BT Access service to extend to the whole city until 11:30 pm. Ridership is growing for the expanded service. BT plans to apply for \$208,000 in JARC funding and \$26,000 in New Freedom funding to continue these services. BT will match these funds at 50%. Joyce Williams moved approval of grant requests. Perry Maull seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

C. Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) Procedures - Joe Fish explained the HSIP program, formerly called the Hazard Elimination and Safety Program, is now managed by the MPO rather than INDOT. The focus of the program is to reduce fatal and incapacitating injuries using low cost methods. Draft procedures outline how approximately \$715,000 could be awarded in the first round of funding. Applications would be due in November and awards would be determined by the Policy Committee in January. Mr. Fish explained that HSIP could fund up to 90% of the construction of an eligible project. A list of eligible projects, using the State's accident reporting database, was distributed. MPO staff suggests that all 53 intersections and 4 segment locations identified on the list be considered eligible to receive funding through the HSIP program. Mr. Fish also reviewed how to determine the project's cost/benefit ratio using a spreadsheet adapted from the State of Minnesota.

Ms. Williams suggested the timeline be kept tight. She also questioned the "reactive/proactive" terminology and suggested substituting "high cost/low cost." Ms. Williams asked if the intersection of an INDOT road with a local road would be considered eligible. Mr. Fish said that kind of project might have to go through an appeal process if not identified on the list. Ms. Williams suggested that the appeal process run concurrent with the application process to save

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time. Mr. Micuda moved to recommend approval of the HSIP guidelines as put together by staff with the following modifications: 1.) Use a larger project list minus the INDOT intersections that were inadvertently included; 2.) Use better terminology than “reactive/proactive” to describe project types; 3.) Allow the appeals process to run concurrent with the application process. Perry Maull seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

D. Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) Architecture - Mr. Hess presented the draft Regional ITS Architecture. The purpose of the document is to identify how technology can be integrated into the transportation infrastructure to alleviate congestion and improve safety and efficiency. The document was produced using a computer program which takes inputs from stakeholders and identifies the relationships among those stakeholders. There is no additional funding to help implement ITS projects. However, FHWA has said that if a project has an ITS component, it won't be approved unless we have an adopted plan. He explained portions of the document. It is suggested that staff maintain the document administratively in order to keep it up to date. Staff would draft a new version of the document every five years. Lew May moved approval of the Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) Architecture. Perry Maull seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

E. Transportation Enhancement (TE) Program Update - Scott Robinson presented the Committee with an update on the TE program. The State will now allocate a predetermined amount to each MPO and the MPO will in turn have to award the money. The BMCMPPO is estimated to receive \$280,000 of TE grants for fiscal year 2012. The deadline to apply for TE funds was August 21st and no applications were received. Therefore funds will roll over to next year. Staff intends to clarify the process for the allotment of funds and establish a selection committee.

VIII. Communications from Committee Members (non-agenda items)

Joyce Williams wants to discuss railroad crossings and conversations she has had with the railroad at a future meeting.

IX. Upcoming Meetings

- A. Citizens Advisory Committee – August 27, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. (McCloskey Room)
- B. Policy Committee – September 12, 2008 at 1:30pm (McCloskey Room)
- C. Technical Advisory Committee – September 26, 2008 at 1:30pm (McCloskey Room)

Adjournment

These minutes were _____ by the Technical Advisory Committee at their regular meeting held on September 26, 2008 (RCH 09/26/2008).